

undergone an historic change; it was evident in the faces of Wisconsinites that visibly displayed their resolve and in their shouts of thank you. While this battle may be over, the war continues. I rise to give a hearty thank you to Wisconsin's Fabulous 14.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. BILL HUIZENGA

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 16, 2011

Mr. HUIZENGA of Michigan. Mr. Speaker, I was absent from the House floor during rollcall vote No. 177 taken on Tuesday, March 15. Had I been present, I would have voted "aye."

NATIONAL AHEC WEEK

HON. CATHY McMORRIS RODGERS

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 16, 2011

Mrs. McMORRIS RODGERS. Mr. Speaker, March 14–18 marks National AHEC week. The Area Health Education Centers (AHEC) program was developed by Congress in 1971 to recruit, train and retain a health professions workforce. Today, 56 AHEC programs with more than 235 centers operate in almost every state and the District of Columbia. The AHEC program addresses the imbalances in our healthcare system and inequities in access to and quality of healthcare. Nearly 8,000 AHEC community based training sites are located in underserved areas including 3,500 in designated health professions shortage areas, training a workforce committed to serving underserved populations. This is accomplished by forming academic and community partnerships that link the resources of academic health centers with the needs of the communities. This unique program has continually exceeded HRSA's performance measure targets in terms of the percentage of program participants who are underrepresented minorities and from disadvantaged backgrounds; the proportion of participants that train in medically underserved communities; and the percentage of health professionals entering practice in underserved areas.

On this week, we celebrate the goals and ideals of the AHEC program as well as its innumerable contributions to the advancement of health care in our most underserved communities.

INTRODUCTION OF THE STARTUP VISA ACT OF 2011

HON. CAROLYN B. MALONEY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 16, 2011

Mrs. MALONEY. Mr. Speaker, today I am introducing a new version of the StartUp Visa Act, a bill that would encourage innovation and economic growth by permitting immigrant

entrepreneurs greater access to temporary U.S. visas. The bill matches legislation introduced this week by Senators JOHN KERRY, RICHARD LUGAR, and MARK UDALL in the Senate.

What do American household names such as Google, eBay and Procter & Gamble have in common? They are all former start-ups founded by immigrants.

Our current visa laws have made it unnecessarily difficult for immigrants to launch new companies in the United States. I am reintroducing the StartUp Visa Act because the economic dynamism of foreign-born talent has always been a crucial factor in our country's growth, and we must take steps to enable it to continue. By allowing immigrant entrepreneurs greater access to American visas, we truly can drive American job creation and channel the power of innovation.

This legislation would be an expansion of the bill from last Congress, extending the pool of eligible immigrants to include holders of H–1B visas and entrepreneurs living outside the United States with a market presence in the country.

The entrepreneurial spirit is ingrained in our country's history and success. I believe that this legislation is a vital component of promoting our global competitiveness. We must ensure a strong foundation for foreign-born, highly-skilled talent to create American jobs and promote economic prosperity and this bill works toward that end.

HONORING TEXAS SOCIETY, SONS OF THE AMERICAN REVOLUTION

HON. KENNY MARCHANT

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 16, 2011

Mr. MARCHANT. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Texas Society, Sons of the American Revolution for their patriotism and preservation of our country's rich history. Texas Society, Sons of the American Revolution members can trace their family heritage to the men and women who fought for our nation's independence. For 115 years, Texas Society, Sons of the American Revolution has inspired our communities with the principles and promises of our nation's Founding Fathers.

On February 8, 1896, charter members from around Texas formed the Bernardo de Galvez Chapter of Texas Society, Sons of the American Revolution. The founding members selected The Honorable Ira H. Evans as the first state president. In 1897, the first annual meeting was held with fifteen members. Today the organization has grown to incorporate sixty-six chapters across Texas and approximately ten thousand members.

Texas Society, Sons of the American Revolution is actively involved in communities around Texas by sponsoring and hosting many charitable events such as essay, art, and oration contests for high school students. Texas Society, Sons of the American Revolution recognizes ROTC, JROTC, Eagle Scouts, and others for hard work in the community. Texas Society, Sons of the American Revolution also works closely with disabled veterans

in homes and hospitals around Texas. The organization honors the importance of the American Revolution through civic events where full color guard and revolutionary war uniforms are worn to commemorate our nation's founding.

Mr. Speaker, it is an honor to recognize Texas Society, Sons of the American Revolution. I ask all of my distinguished colleagues to join me in commending the Texas Society, Sons of the American Revolution on its faithful service to our communities in Texas.

H.R. 1, FULL-YEAR CONTINUING APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2011

HON. BETTY MCCOLLUM

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 16, 2011

Ms. MCCOLLUM. Mr. Speaker, over the past few weeks, hundreds of Minnesotans, as well as citizens from across the country, have contacted my office about the military's multi-million dollar taxpayer sponsorship of NASCAR race cars. Frankly, many of my constituents and citizens of all political persuasions—Democrats, Republicans, and Tea Party activists—are dumbfounded when race car drivers receive millions of dollars from the Department of Defense while the Speaker of the House of Representatives tells the American people our country is "broke."

Last month the House of Representatives voted to eliminate funding for homeless veterans, slash community health centers serving low income families, and pass a fiscal year 2011 budget that would force 800,000 Americans to lose their jobs. Yet, taxpayer funded sponsorship of NASCAR racing teams was protected. I find this absurd.

One of my constituents, a twelve-year-old young man named Nickolas of South Saint Paul, Minnesota, provided an eloquent rebuttal to these appalling priorities. Nickolas wrote my office saying:

Congresswomen Betty McCollum,

My name is Nickolas, and I am a Boy Scout working on my Citizenship in the Nation Merit Badge.

I read online that you wrote a bill to stop the Pentagon from sponsoring NASCAR race teams as a way to advertise. I agree that it is absurd that the Pentagon is funding NASCAR. We should put the money into NASA and jobs for people. NASA is more important than NASCAR.

If the government is going to pay to support a race, how about a race to Mars? America has already sent people to the moon, why not Mars? Instead of paying for people to go in circles, why not pay for people to go for Mars? Humans are explorers. We should go to answer questions about the Red Planet and the Solar System. In addition, the studies done to get to Mars will give us better technology here on earth.

Nickolas understands that scarce taxpayer dollars need to be invested in innovation, education, and exploration that will create new opportunities to expand our knowledge of space and our economy. I strongly encourage my colleagues to take Nickolas' advice and focus on cutting unnecessary government spending, like government sponsorship of NASCAR race cars while making sound investments in America's future.